

What is claimed is:

1 ~~Sub~~ A method, comprising
 2 receiving a call request from a first media gateway controller to a second
 3 media controller over a network;
 4 requesting information from the first media gateway controller; and
 5 receiving the information before establishing a bearer path over the
 6 network.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the call comprises receiving the
 2 call over a packet-based network.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the call comprises receiving the
 2 call over an Asynchronous Transfer Mode network.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein receiving the call request comprises
 2 receiving an BICC IAM message.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the call comprises receiving the
 2 call over an Internet Protocol network.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein receiving the call request comprises
 2 receiving an IAM message encapsulated in a SIP-T message.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein requesting the information comprises
 2 requesting the information in a SIP-T message.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein requesting the information comprises
 2 providing a digit map within the SIP-T message.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein requesting the information comprises
 2 requesting digits to establish a call session.

1 10. The method of claim 1, further including terminating the call in response
2 to receiving the information.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein requesting the information comprises
2 requesting the information in response to determining that additional digits are desired to
3 terminate the call.

1 ~~12.~~ An apparatus, comprising
2 a first interface coupled to a packet-based network; and
3 a controller communicatively coupled to the first interface, the controller
4 to:
5 receive a call request from a media gateway controller over the
6 packet-based network;
7 determine if at least one digit is required to establish a call session;
8 and
9 receive the at least one digit from the media gateway controller
10 over the packet-based network from the media gateway controller in response to
11 determining that the at least one digit is required.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the packet-based network comprises
2 one of an Asynchronous Transfer Mode network and an Internet Protocol network.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the controller is adapted to receive the
2 call request in one of a BICC IAM and SIP-T IAM message.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the controller is further adapted to
2 request the at least one digit from the media gateway controller over the packet-based
3 network.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the controller is adapted to receive the
2 at least one digit in at least one of a SIP-T message and a BICC message.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the controller is adapted to request a
2 digit map within the SIP-T message.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the controller is further adapted to
2 complete the call session in response to receiving the at least one digit.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the controller is further adapted to
2 receiving information during the call session.

1 20. An apparatus, comprising:
2 a first interface coupled to a first network;
3 a second interface coupled to a packet-based network; and
4 a controller communicatively coupled to the first and second interface, the
5 controller to:
6 receive a call request over the first network from a party;
7 transmit the call request over the packet-based network to a media
8 gateway controller;
9 receive a request to collect digits from the media gateway
10 controller over the packet-based network;
11 collect digits from the party; and
12 transmit the collected digits to the media gateway controller.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the first network is a Signaling System
2 #7 network.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the controller is adapted to receive the
2 call request in an IAM message.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the packet-based network comprises
2 one of an Asynchronous Transfer Mode network and an Internet Protocol network.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the controller is adapted to collect the
2 digits from a media gateway over the packet-based network.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the controller is adapted to collect the
2 digits from the media gateway over at least one of a Megaco protocol, a media gateway
3 controller protocol, a simple gateway controller protocol, and an Internet protocol device
4 control.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the controller is adapted to transmit
2 the digits within a SIP-T message.

1 27. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the controller is adapted to receive the
2 request to collect the digits from the media gateway within a SIP-T message.

1 28. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the controller is further adapted to
2 receive a request to collect digits after establishing a call session.

1 29. An article comprising at least one machine-readable storage medium
2 containing instructions that when executed cause a processor to:
3 receive a request to establish a call session over a packet-based network
4 from a media gateway controller;
5 request information from the media gateway controller; and
6 receive the information from the media gateway controller before
7 establishing a voice path over the packet-based network.

1 30. The article of claim 29, wherein the instructions when executed cause the
2 processor to receive the request over one of an Asynchronous Transfer Mode network
3 and an Internet Protocol network.

1 31. The article of claim 29, wherein the instructions when executed cause the
2 processor to receive the request in one of a BICC IAM and SIP-T IAM message.

1 32. The article of claim 29, wherein the instructions when executed cause the
2 processor to request the information in a SIP-T message.

1 33. The article of claim 29, wherein the instructions when executed cause the
2 processor to receive the information in a SIP-T message.

1 34. The article of claim 29, wherein the instructions when executed cause the
2 processor to establish the voice path over the packet-based network.

1 35. The article of claim 29, wherein the instructions when executed cause the
2 processor to receive the information indicating that the request may not be completed.

1 36. The article of claim 29, wherein the instructions when executed caused the
2 processor to receive a request for information after establishing the voice path over the
3 packet-based network.

1 37. A data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising instructions that
2 when executed cause a processor to:
3 receive a call request from a media gateway controller over a packet-based
4 network; and
5 receive at least one digit in one of a BICC and a SIP-T message from the
6 media gateway controller before establishing a voice path over the packet-based network.

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